

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IO-11 EA-07 /092 W

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R 120820Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2771

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1950

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CENTO, PK

SUBJ: CENTO POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER

REF: ANKARA 1649

1. PAKISTAN COUNSELOR MATIN CALLED ON EMBOFF MARCH 11 TO CONVEY WHAT HE SAID WAS HIS OWN OPINION REGARDING THE NEED FOR EARLY PROGRESS ON THE CENTO POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER (REFTEL).

2. MATIN SAID THAT THE PRESENT PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT, WHEN IT FACES ELECTIONS EARLY NEXT YEAR, IS LIKELY TO ENCOUNTER EMBARRASSING CRITICISM FROM THE OPPOSITION BECAUSE IT HAS SO FAR FAILED TO MAKE GOOD ON ITS 1971 CAMPAIGN PLEDGE TO WITHDRAW FROM CENTO. CONSEQUENTLY, THE GOVERNMENT HAS TWO ALTERNATIVES: (1) TO WITHDRAW FROM CENTO; OR (2) TO GET A FRESH COMMITMENT FROM ITS CENTO PARTNERS WITH WHICH IT COULD JUSTIFY CONTINUING MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORGANIZATION. IF THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT WERE TO CHOOSE THE SECOND ALTERNATIVE, HE PREDICTED, IT WOULD NEED TO HAVE A COMPLETED POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER IN HAND IN ABOUT THREE MONTHS, I.E., WELL BEFORE THE START OF THE CAMPAIGN. HE FURTHER SAID THAT IT WOULD BE "VITAL" TO PAKISTAN THAT THIS PAPER DEAL ADEQUATELY WITH THE PROBLEM OF "WARS BY PROXY".

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3. ASIDE FROM THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PROBLEM POSED BY CENTO MEMBERSHIP, MATIN OBSERVED, THE PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE SOVIETS TO LEAVE CENTO AND TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY PLAN.

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY ISLAMABAD'S COMMENTS.
MACOMBER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MILITARY PLANS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ANKARA01950
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760094-0167
From: ANKARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760369/aaaacieb.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ANKARA 1649
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <08 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CENTO POLITICAL GUIDANCE PAPER
TAGS: MPOL, PORG, PK, CENTO
To: ISLAMABAD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006